THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir. A Wildlife Crime Cell has been set up at National level.

(b) and (c) The Central Government Constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. S. Subramanian on 24th May, 1994. The Committee submitted its final report on 8th August 1994 i.e., in 2 months and 16 days. The Committee visited Madras, Calcutta, Bombay, Bangalore and protected areas like Nagarhole, Bandipur, Mudumalai, Dudhwa, Borvili and Kaziranga and studied various issues related to illegal trade and wildlife protection in the country. Of the several recommendations made by the Committee one pertained to setting up of a Wildlife Crime Cell. The Government, having due regard to the available financial resources and the policy on right sizing the infrastructure has set up a Wildlife Crime Cell under the charge of Joint Director (Wildlife).

(d) The functions of the Wildlife Crime Cell are:

(1) Intelligence gathering on wildlife, poaching and illegal trade from various NGOs in the field of wildlife conservation and various enforcement agencies and intelligence organisations of Government of India.

(2) Collation, synthesis and interpretation of information collected from various enforcement organisations.

Transaction of genetic material

†2819. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that earlier the transaction of genetic materials like seeds, plants and reproductive fluid was carried out free of cost, with mutual understanding, without any rules;

(b) whether it is also a fact that now every country is presenting its right on Bio-diversity, more firmly;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to formulate rules for the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

transaction of genetic materials like seeds, plants and reproductive fluid, with different countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The UN Convention of Biological Diversity reaffirming the sovereign rights of nations over their biological resources, *inter-alia* provides for facilitating access to these resources to other parties on mutually agreed upon terms and with prior informed consent, subject to national legislation.

(c) and (d) The Government has formulated a biological diversity legislation with broad objectives of conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources and associated knowledge.

Deforestation due to leasing

2820. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of deforestation due to leasing in Bihar, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand during the last five years, year-wise;

(b) the number of trees lost and the percentage of survival from compensatory deforestation; and

(c) the species and the number of wild animals lost due to such deforestation, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) the details of forest land diverted for non-forestry